

S.234

Introduced by Senators Mullin and Ashe

Referred to Committee on Health and Welfare

Date: January 7, 2014

Subject: Health; Medicaid; home health services; telemonitoring

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require  
Medicaid coverage for home telemonitoring services.

An act relating to Medicaid coverage for home telemonitoring services

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

~~Sec. 1. MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR HOME TELEMONITORING~~

~~SERVICES~~

~~(a) The Agency of Human Services shall provide Medicaid coverage for  
services performed by home health agencies using home telemonitoring for a  
Medicaid beneficiary who:~~

~~(1) requires after-care following surgery of the circulatory system  
involving cardiac valve replacement or coronary artery bypass graft surgery;~~

~~(2) is diagnosed with one or more of the following conditions:~~

~~(A) chronic ischemic heart disease;~~

~~(B) heart failure;~~

~~(C) pneumonia;~~

- 1 ~~(D) obstructive chronic bronchitis with acute exacerbation;~~
- 2 (E) chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD);
- 3 (F) asthma with COPD;
- 4 (G) preeclampsia;
- 5 (H) diabetes; or
- 6 (I) myocardial infarction; or
- 7 (3) exhibits two or more of the following risk factors:
- 8 (A) two or more hospitalizations in the prior 12-month period;
- 9 (B) frequent or recurrent emergency room admissions;
- 10 (C) a documented history of poor adherence to ordered medication
- 11 regimes;
- 12 (D) a documented history of falls in the prior six-month period;
- 13 (E) limited or absent informal support systems;
- 14 (F) living alone and being home alone for extended periods of
- 15 time; or
- 16 (G) a documented history of challenges accessing care.
- 17 (b) The Agency shall ensure that clinical information gathered by a home
- 18 health agency while providing home telemonitoring services is shared with the
- 19 patient's treating health care professionals and may impose other reasonable
- 20 requirements on the use of home telemonitoring services.

~~(c) As used in this section:~~

~~(1) "Home health agency" means an entity that has received a certificate of need from the State to provide home health services or is certified to provide services pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1395x(o).~~

~~(2) "Home telemonitoring service" means a health service that requires scheduled remote monitoring of data related to a patient's health and transmission of that data to a licensed home health agency.~~

## Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

~~This act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.~~

~~Sec. 1. 33 V.S.A. § 1901g is added to read:~~

### ~~§ 1901g. MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR HOME TELEMONTORING SERVICES~~

~~(a) The Agency of Human Services shall provide Medicaid coverage for home telemonitoring services performed by home health agencies or other qualified providers as defined by the Agency of Human Services for Medicaid beneficiaries who have serious or chronic medical conditions that can result in frequent or recurrent hospitalizations and emergency room admissions. The Agency shall use evidence-based best practices to determine the conditions or risk factors to be covered.~~

~~(b) A home health agency or other qualified providers as defined by the Agency of Human Services shall ensure that clinical information gathered by the home health agency or other qualified providers as defined by the Agency of Human Services while providing home telemonitoring services is shared with the patient's treating health care professionals. The Agency of Human Services may impose other reasonable requirements on the use of home telemonitoring services.~~

~~(c) As used in this section:~~

~~(1) "Home health agency" means an entity that has received a certificate of need from the State to provide home health services and is certified to provide services pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1395x(o).~~

~~(2) "Home telemonitoring service" means a health service that requires scheduled remote monitoring of data related to a patient's health, in conjunction with a home health plan of care, and access to the data by a home health agency or other qualified providers as defined by the Agency of Human Services.~~

~~Sec. 2. GRANT FUNDING~~

~~The Department of Vermont Health Access and home health agencies shall seek to maximize opportunities for grant funding to offset start-up, equipment, technology, maintenance, and other costs related to home telemonitoring in order to minimize the expense to the Medicaid program.~~

~~Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE~~

~~This act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.~~

Sec. 1. 33 V.S.A. § 1901g is added to read:

§ 1901g. MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR HOME TELEMONITORING SERVICES

(a) The Agency of Human Services shall provide Medicaid coverage for home telemonitoring services performed by home health agencies or other qualified providers as defined by the Agency of Human Services for Medicaid beneficiaries who have serious or chronic medical conditions that can result in frequent or recurrent hospitalizations and emergency room admissions. Beginning on July 1, 2014, the Agency shall provide coverage for home telemonitoring for one or more conditions or risk factors for which it determines, using reliable data, that home telemonitoring services are appropriate and that coverage will be budget-neutral. The Agency may expand coverage to include additional conditions or risk factors identified using evidence-based best practices if the expanded coverage will remain budget-neutral or as funds become available.

(b) A home health agency or other qualified provider shall ensure that clinical information gathered by the home health agency or other qualified provider while providing home telemonitoring services is shared with the patient's treating health care professionals. The Agency of Human Services may impose other reasonable requirements on the use of home telemonitoring services.

(c) As used in this section:

(1) "Home health agency" means an entity that has received a certificate of need from the State to provide home health services and is certified to provide services pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1395x(o).

(2) "Home telemonitoring service" means a health service that requires scheduled remote monitoring of data related to a patient's health, in conjunction with a home health plan of care, and access to the data by a home health agency or other qualified provider as defined by the Agency of Human Services.

*Sec. 2. GRANT FUNDING*

The Department of Vermont Health Access and home health agencies shall seek to maximize opportunities for grant funding to offset start-up, equipment, technology, maintenance, and other costs related to home telemonitoring in order to minimize the expense to the Medicaid program.

*Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE*

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.